

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

This chapter will describe the process for the utilization of foster homes.

- 5.1 Foster Home Utilization
- 5.2 Foster/Emergency Home Maintenance

5.1 FOSTER HOME UTILIZATION

- 1) The Children's Service Worker who licensed the home will present the family's strengths and weaknesses to child's worker searching for a suitable placement and attempt to match foster home to child.
- 2) Ideally, during the first six months following initial licensure, no more than one child at a time should be placed in a foster home, except for a sibling group.
- 3) Ensure that foster home licensed capacity is never exceeded except for sibling placements.

NOTE: This does not mean that the number of children in the home is ignored because siblings are placed there. The only time that the number may exceed a total of six children is when there are already children in the home and placing siblings in that home will result in exceeding the limit. If the number then exceeds six, slots should not be filled until the home again is within allowable capacity.

- 4) Maintain a log of children placed with the family (CW-104).
- 5) Record utilization facts every six months.

5.2 FOSTER/EMERGENCY HOME MAINTENANCE

- 1) The Children's Services Worker who licensed the home will maintain, at a minimum, quarterly personal contact with foster parent to discuss generic issues relating to fostering (not related to specific children, which would be handled by child's worker).
- 2) Maintain availability to foster parent as an advocate or for policy clarification should the need arise.
- 3) Encourage networking between foster parents by sharing lists of foster parent names and addresses, and pairing up a newly licensed foster parent with an experienced foster parent.
- 4) Record actions taken every three months.

MEMORANDA HISTORY: